

Application No. 10/014,452

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that several rejections have been overcome.

Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-16, 18, 21, and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al. in view of Arnold, et al. and further in view of Schlueter, Jr. et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

As discussed previously, Parker, et al. teaches a puzzle cut seamed belt having a polyimide substrate and a polyamide adhesive. The reference does not teach or suggest the adhesive comprising an oxalic acid or a plasticizer as claimed. In addition, the reference does not teach or suggest the adhesive comprising electrically conductive filler as claimed.

Arnold, et al. teaches a polyamide adhesive comprising bisphenol as an adhesive promoter. The reference teaches use of from 1 to 25, 2 to 10, and up to 5 percent of the bisphenol (plasticizer) by weight of the polyamide. Arnold, et al. also teaches use of the oxalic acid. However, Arnold, et al., does not teach or suggest use of an electrically conductive filler in the polyamide adhesive as claimed.

Therefore, neither reference teaches or suggests the use of an electrically conductive filler in the claimed polyamide adhesive.

The Examiner recites Schlueter, Jr., et al. as teaching an electrically conductive filler in an adhesive. Applicants agree that Schlueter, Jr., et al. does teach use of a filler in an adhesive. Schlueter, Jr., et al. teaches an adhesive comprising a) polyvinyl butyral composition comprising a terpolymer of polyvinyl butyral, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl acetate, and a plasticizer; b) a polyurethane composition including a polyester polyurethane polymer; or c) a blended composition including an acrylonitrile butadiene copolymer and a phenyl formaldehyde polymer. The reference does not teach or suggest a polyamide adhesive as claimed and as taught by both Parker, et al. and Arnold, et al. However, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to combine the references cited.

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To begin with, Parker, et al. teaches use of a polyamide adhesive in combination with a polyimide belt. On the other hand, Arnold, et al. teaches use of a polyamide adhesive in combination with a polyester material (col. 1, lines 43-46; and Example 2, col. 5, lines 17-20). And finally, Schlueter, Jr. et al. teaches a polyimide belt having a polyurethane adhesive, a polyvinyl adhesive or a blended composition of acrylonitrile and butadiene copolymer and a phenol formaldehyde polymer adhesive. Therefore, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use a polyamide adhesive containing an oxalic acid and bisphenol plasticizer as taught by Arnold, et al. in combination with a polyester, as plasticizers in a polyamide adhesive in combination with a polyimide belt as taught by Parker, et al., and then pull in a filler recited by Schlueter, Jr. et al. as being used in a completely different adhesive composition. Applicants respectfully point out that specific adhesives work well with only specific types of materials. Further, fillers work differently when placed in different materials and different adhesives. Applicants submit that there would not have been any expectation of success that a polyamide adhesive taught in combination with a polyester material, would work well as an adhesive for a polyimide belt as claimed and as taught by Parker, et al. Applicants further submit that there would have been no expectation of success that a filler taught for use with a polyurethane, or polyvinyl composition, or blend of acrylonitrile and butadiene and phenol formaldehyde adhesive, would be successful if used in combination with a polyamide adhesive.

In addition, Applicants point out that Schlueter, Jr., et al. teaches a completely different plasticizer than that as claimed and as taught by Arnold, et al. Instead, the reference at col. 10, lines 28-29, teaches a plasticizer of dialkyl phthalate. Therefore, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art faced with the teachings of a plasticizer comprising dialkyl phthalate, would not have been motivated to alter the plasticizer into the plasticizer of Arnold, et al., absent some teaching or suggestion.

Applicants submit that there would have been no expectation of success that an electrically conductive filler taught in combination with an adhesive of polyvinyl butyral, polyurethane, or a blended composition as taught by Schlueter, Jr., et al. in combination with a dialkyl phthalate plasticizer, would work with an adhesive comprising oxalic acid, bisphenol, and polyamide as taught by Arnold, et al.

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Therefore, because the adhesive taught by Schlueter, Jr., et al. is completely distinguishable from the adhesive compositions taught by Parker, et al., which is further different from the adhesive taught by Arnold, et al., Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the electrically conductive filler of Schlueter, Jr., et al. taught in combination with a dialkyl phthalate and polyvinyl butyral, polyurethane or acrylonitrile and butadiene copolymer, and use that with a polyamide, oxalic acid and bisphenol adhesive of Arnold, et al., absent some teaching or suggestion to make such a change in the adhesive compositions taught by Parker, et al. and Arnold, et al.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the claims are not obvious in view of the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-16, 18, 21, and 22-25 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al. in view of Arnold, et al.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr., et al., in view of Yamasaki, et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants repeat the above arguments as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the electrically conductive fillers taught by Schlueter, Jr., et al., in combination with the distinguishing adhesives of Parker, et al. and Arnold, et al. Applicants note that the Examiner states that Yamasaki, et al. teaches an electrically conductive filler as a quaternary ammonium salt for the purpose of creating an electrically conductive polyurethane foam. Applicants respectfully submit that absent some teaching or suggestion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the electrically conductive filler taught for use with a polyurethane foam on an electrically conductive roller, and use that electrically conductive filler with an adhesive material. Applicants further submit that it is an even greater stretch to argue that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use an electrically conductive filler taught for use with a polyurethane foam, as a filler in a polyamide adhesive material. Not only does Yamasaki, et al. not teach an adhesive material, and use of an electrically conductive filler therein, but Yamasaki, et al., also does not teach or suggest a polyamide material in combination with an electrically conductive filler. Therefore, Applicants submit that absent some teaching or suggestion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the

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electrically conductive filler as taught by Yamasaki, et al., in combination with a polyurethane foam, as a filler in a polyamide adhesive. Applicants further point out that a polyurethane foam material is completely distinguishable from a polyamide adhesive.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 13 is not rendered obvious in view cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr., et al., and further in view of Yamasaki, et al.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., in view of Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr., et al. and Pistoia. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 1, and therefore, Applicants repeat the above arguments as to why one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to combine the first three cited references.

In addition, Applicants submit that Pistoia is not in the same field of endeavor as the present claims, and as Parker, et al, Arnold, et al. and Schlueter, Jr., et al. Pistoia relates to a vanadate cathode active material and method of making, and to electric current producing and storage cells. The present claims are directed to an endless seamed flexible belt and not to electric producing or storage cells. Applicants submit that the teachings of the quaternary reference are not remotely related to the teachings of the primary, secondary or tertiary references.

Applicants further submit that Pistoia does not recognize the problem solved by the present invention, which is further evidence of a non-relevant reference that is not in the same field of endeavor. The present specification starting at page 6, line 14, states that the problem to be solved by the invention includes providing an adhesive between seaming members, wherein the height differential between the seam and the belt is virtually nil, and wherein the occurrence of ripples and tenting at the seam is reduced or eliminated. Another problem solved is providing an adhesive that is resistant to alcohol and organic solvents. Pistoia does not recognize any of the problems solved by the present invention. This is evidence that Pistoia is not in the same field of endeavor as the present invention, and is not a relevant reference.

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The Examiner states that one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to use the polypyrrole of Pistoia, "in order to create a cell comprising a variety of electrolytes, current collectors and cathode compositions." However, there is no teaching in the primary, secondary or tertiary reference to create a cell, and the present claims are not directed to a cell, but to an endless seamed flexible belt.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Pistoia is not a relevant reference, and that one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Pistoia with the primary, secondary and tertiary references.

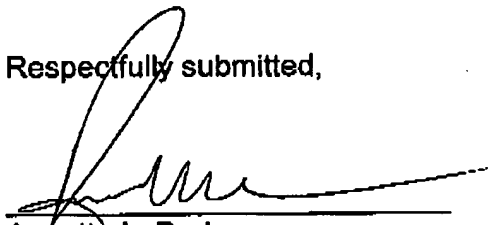
Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 17 is not rendered obvious in view of the combination of Parker, et al., in view of Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr., et al. and Pistoia.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, Applicants submit that all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Early indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, s/he is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Annette L. Bade, at telephone number (310) 333-3682.

Respectfully submitted,



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